

Message Text

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SUBJECT: SOVIET WRITER AITMATOV, PROPOSED CANDIDATE FOR SEC.
X EXCHANGE

STATE FOR CU/EE, RICHMOND

1. UNION OF WRITERS PROPOSED VERBALLY TO ACAO WRITER
CHINGIS AITMATOV AS CANDIDATE FOR SEC. X EXCHANGE FOR ONE
MONTH PERIOD. EXCHANGE PROPOSED TO BEGIN JUNE TWENTY-FIFTH.
AITMATOV WOULD BE ACCOMPANIED BY SON AS TRANSLATOR. SON
PRESENTLY STUDENT OF ENGLISH AT MGU.

2. AITMATOV WELL KNOWN AS AUTHOR TO EMBASSY AND HIGHLY
REGARDED. MOST RECENTLY NOTED WORK IS PLAY "ASCENT ON
FUJIYAMA" WHICH DEPARTMENT AWARE AS BEING IN REPERTOIRE

OF ARENA STAGE. HE ALSO AUTHOR OF NUMEROUS WELL KNOWN NOVELS,
SHORT STORIES AND PLAYS AND IS AUTHOR OF MANY SUCCESSFUL
FILM SCRIPTS. MANY OF HIS BOOKS AND SHORT STORIES HAVE ALSO
BEEN MADE INTO FILMS. AITMATOV FORMERLY AN EDITOR ON
LITERATURNAYA GAZETA AND IS CURRENTLY ON EDITORIAL BOARD OF
NOVY MIR.

3. ALTHOUGH AITMATOV HAS SIGNED ANTI-SAKHAROV STATEMENT
IN THE PAST AND APPEARED ON TV SOME YEARS AGO WITH PRO-
BREZHNEV STATEMENTS HE ALSO REGARDED AS INDEPENDENT PERSONALITY
WHO NOT HESITANT TO EXPRESS HIS OPINIONS. LAST YEAR HE GAVE
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INTERVIEW TO NEW YORK TIMES' MOSCOW CORRESPONDENT WHICH

FLUTTERED UNION'S DOVECOTE. IN SHORT, EVEN THOUGH AITMATOV
GENERALLY IN GOOD GRACES OF ESTABLISHMENT HE FAR FROM
COMPLIANT HACK.

4. AITMATOV INTERESTED IN VISITING WASHINGTON, NEW YORK,
CHICAGO, LOS ANGELES AND SAN FRANCISCO. HIS PARTICULAR
INTEREST IS TO MEET FILM WRITERS, DIRECTORS AND ACTORS AND
TO SEE AN MANY AMERICAN FILMS AS POSSIBLE. HE ALSO MILDLY
INTERESTED IN ATTENDING INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
AT UNIVERSITY OF INDIANA. POST WOULD ASSUME THAT ARENA
STAGE WOULD ALSO BE INTERESTED IN PROGRAMMING AITMATOV.

5. EMBASSY STRONGLY SUPPORTS EXCHANGE EVEN THOUGH TIME IS
SHORT. AS DEPARTMENT AWARE UNION NORMALLY PROPOSES SAFE
HACKS FOR THIS EXCHANGE. FAR FROM BEING LITERARY FUNCTIONARY
WHO BEING REWARDED FOR LONG AND FAITHFUL PARTY SERVICE,
AITMATOV IS CONSIDERED BY EMBASSY ONE OF LEADING
CONTEMPORARY SOVIET WRITERS WHO HAS MANY PRODUCTIVE YEARS
REMAINING AND WITH WHOM WE WOULD HOPE TO DEVELOP
BEST POSSIBLE RELATIONS. SINCE AITMATOV RARELY ABLE
TRAVEL BECAUSE OF HIS OWN DETERMINATION TO LET NOTHING
INTERFERE WITH HIS ARTISTIC WORK THIS MAY BE ONE OF FEW
OPPORTUNITIES FOR US TO RECEIVE HIM IN STATES. ONE WOULD
ASSUME THAT ARENA STATE WOULD BE PLEASED RECEIVE AITMATOV
AND HELP WITH HIS PROGRAMMING. PLEASE ADVISE ASAP.
MATLOCK

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